

CONNECTICUT AND PENNSYLVANIA CLAIMS

The following excerpts are taken from S. Fletcher Weyburn's FOLLOWING THE CONNECTICUT TRAIL.

"The Connecticut Claim was based upon a grant by King Charles II of England in 1662, for land bounded by 41 and 42 north latitude and extending from Narragansett Bay to the sea on the west, except such lands already occupied by prior settlers, namely; New York, and New Jersey. Later this territory became known as the Wyoming Region because of the conflict arising over another grant to William Penn in 1681 to the same land."(p 11)

"In 1753 several prominent citizens of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts formed a company known as the "The Susquehanna Company at Windham, Connecticut, to purchase from the Six Indian Nations the land embracing Wyoming. In 1754 on the very favorable reports of explorers and missionaries as to the healthful climate and beauty of this region the purchase was made upon payment of £ 2,000, and in 1756 after the decree of the council at Easton, Pa., they began to assemble men to colonize Wyoming."(p 12)

"These New Englanders composing the Susquehanna Company held that, under the charter granted to Connecticut by King Charles II of England in 1662, the claim of Connecticut covered a strip of territory stretching across the North American continent from ocean to ocean. The northern boundary line of this grant was nearly co-incidental with forty-second parallel of north latitude, while the southern boundary was the forty-first parallel; and thus the charter took in, as it extended west-ward, not only what is now the state of Connecticut, but parts of the present states of New York and Pennsylvania."(p 14)

"What, under the deed of conveyance from the Six Nation Indians to the Susquehanna Company, became commonly known as the 'Wyoming Region' or as 'The Susquehanna Purchase', was the stretch of country lying alongside the north branch of the Susquehanna River from the mouth of Nescopeck Creek, some twenty-two miles southwest of Wilkes-Barre, to the Pennsylvania-New York boundary line, and extending a distance of about fifteen miles from the river, east and west.

"In 1755, the year following the purchase of the Wyoming Region by The Susquehanna Company, another land company came into existence. It was composed of some 500 Connecticut citizens, and was denominated 'The Connecticut-Delaware Company.' It purchased from certain clans of the Delaware, or Lenni-Lenape Indians, a large tract of land lying between the forty-first and forty-second parallels of latitude, and extending from the western bank of the Delaware River to the easterly boundary to The Susquehanna Company's land.

"According to historians, the controversy over the Connecticut-Pennsylvania land title continued for several years and resulted in the Pennamite Wars."(p15)